

MORE ON THE PERFIN OF THE REGISTRY OF BUSINESS NAMES

by Dr. R. W. Powell

The account of the 'R.B.N.' perfin in the book on G.B. Official Perfins (1) has two statements that invite further work. Only a single canceller was used throughout, but small variations are known, suggesting that more than one die was used.

I have recently been able to make a start on the different dies, by the receipt of a Lot from my son, John, in Canada.

Five different Dies were found and the resulting page from my album is reproduced.

The top row has two pre-perfin items, a five shilling, SG 416 dated 7 APR 1932 and SG 451 dated 16 OCT 1935. On the earlier, the heading is 'Registrar of Business Names', but on the later comes the Departmental name 'Registry of Business Names' that continued throughout.

The second row has two copies of a die labelled R.B.N. (1). One is on SG 451, dated 56 days after the earliest date reported by Edwards and Lucas, and the other on a 1/3 Churchill, SG 662. The distinctive feature being the non-alignment of the pins in the right leg of the 'R'.

In row three is another 5/-, SG 510, perfined with R.B.N. (2), in which the three pins in the leg of the 'R' are aligned.

The third die, R.B.N. (3) is in row four, and in this the distinctive feature is the marked curve of the three back pins of the lower part of the 'B'. This is shown used on the 2/6 of the 700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament (SG 664), and on SG 670, the Commonwealth Arts Festival 1/6, issued about six weeks later.

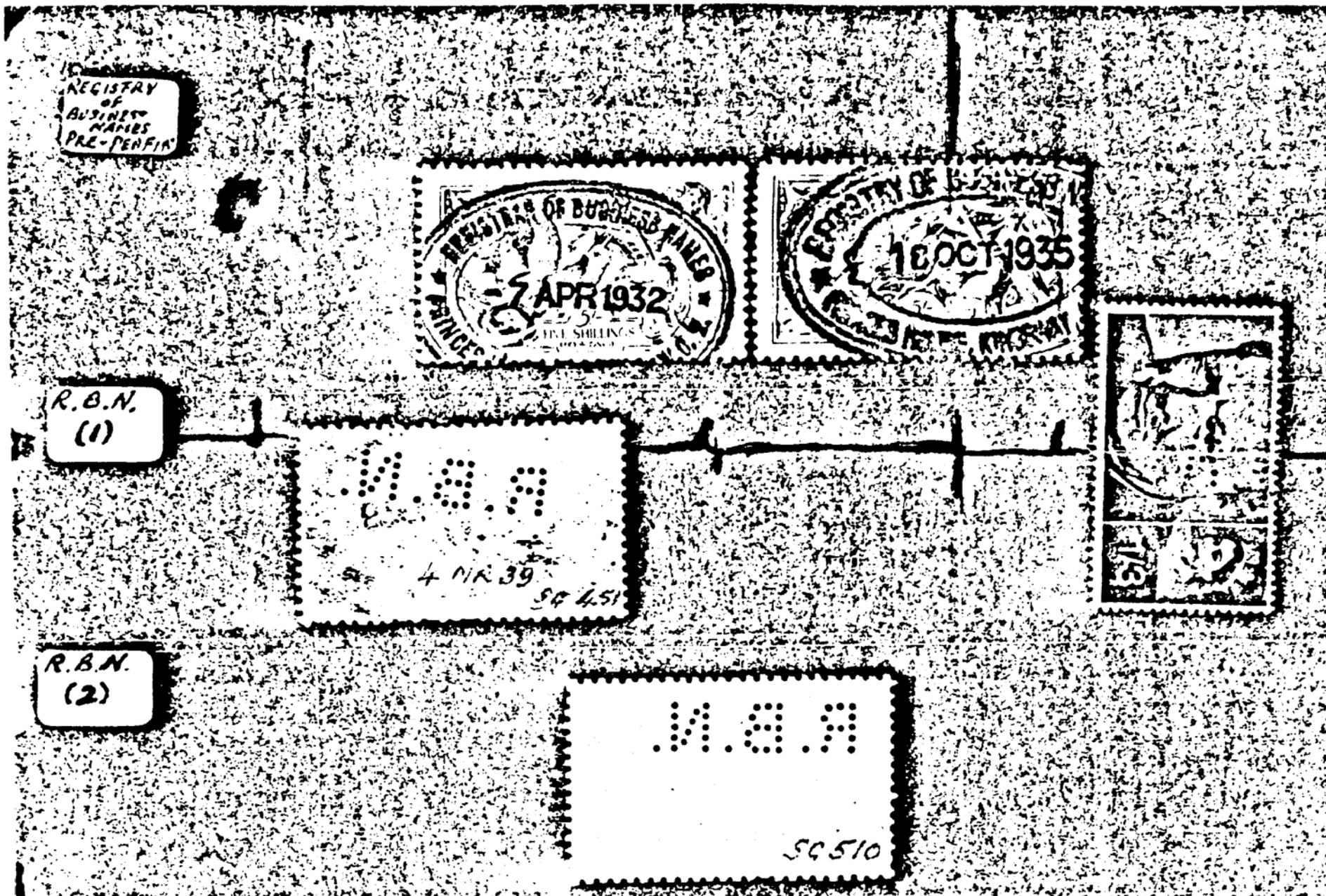
The fourth die is in rows five and six. The 'B' is back to normal, but in the 'R' the middle pin of the left side is below the line through the other two at this level. The stamps that definitely have this die are the Post Office Tower 1/3 (SG 680), the Robert Burns 1/3 (SG 686) and the World Cup 1/3 (SG 695). The 'R' is missing from the other stamp shown, the 2/6 for the 900th Anniversary of Westminster Abbey (SG 688), but it comes within the period, and the portion shown is a good match.

One of the World Cup stamps, which was issued 1 June 1966, is seen to have an 'R' with only five pins, and this agrees with Edwards and Lucas, who wrote of a badly damaged 'R' missing half of its 12 pins which was in use for a considerable period in the late 1960's. I have just this one undated example, but would deduce that the period seems unlikely to be more than a month or two, as I end with two copies of the 1/3 SRN6 Hovercraft (SG 703) issued 19 September 1966, that bear the fifth die. In this last die the pin of the 'R' mentioned with Die 4 is now above the other two pins.

28 April 1970 is the latest date known for the use of this perfin so there may well be other dies about which we would welcome information. Finally, I have been able to report the use of the R.B.N. perfin on eight more Commemorative stamps. Dr. Edwards and Miss Lucas named three, SG 142, which must be a typing error, 690 and 691. What others are known?

(1) T.A. Edwards and B.C. Lucas, G.B. Official Perfins
Published by The Perfin Society, 1984.

Illustrations on facing pages.



R.B.N.
(3)

.N.A.N.

SG 664



R.B.N.
(4)

.N.A.N.

SG 680



.N.A.N.

SG 695



SG 695

R.B.N.
(5)

.N.A.N.

SG 705

